

## Who deserves credit for CRISPR? There's a 'profound disconnect between law and science'

One of the world's richest science awards, given only in alternate years, will go to three discoverers of the CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing tool.

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Emmanuelle Charpentier of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Jennifer Doudna of the University of California, Berkeley, and Virginijus Šikšnys of Vilnius University will each receive a gold medal and share the \$1 million that comes with the Kavli Prize in nanoscience.

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It was only the latest verdict on the controversial question of who deserves credit for turning a bacterial immune system into a revolutionary genome-editing tool.

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[E]veryone from prize juries to patent offices to U.S. judges (to, perhaps, Nobel committees) is clashing over who did what when and how important their contribution was.

And in a reminder that the patent system lives in its own odd world, a scientist who has won far fewer awards for his CRISPR work, Feng Zhang of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, nevertheless holds the key CRISPR patents, a situation that UC is hotly contesting on behalf of Doudna and Charpentier.

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Since the Broad has won all the legal rounds so far, those rooting for Doudna and Charpentier point to a profound disconnect between law and science: The duo has almost run the table of major awards for CRISPR.

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The Kavli nanoscience prize, chosen by a committee of [five physicists](#), is now the latest.

**Read full, original post:** [Who gets credit for CRISPR? Prestigious award singles out three, and leaves out a notable scientist](#)